

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8, 10-15, 18 and 22-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 22 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 23 is amended.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 41.33(b)(1) as it merely cancels claim 22, and amends claim 23 to depend from claim 1. This Amendment is necessary as it reduces the issues for appeal, in particular the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. With respect to the Examiner's citation to 37 C.F.R. § 1.193(b)(2) on page 2, line 10, of the Office Action, the undersigned respectfully notes that 37 C.F.R. § 1.193 was superseded by 37 C.F.R. § 41.33 on September 13, 2004.

The undersigned certifies that a Supplemental Appeal Brief is being filed on the same date as this Amendment.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



John P. Darling

Reg. No. 44,482

Tel. No. (703) 770-7745

Fax No. (703) 770-7901

Date: January 19, 2006

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900